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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

JANUARY 29, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for January 29, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICS, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. MEASURES AGAINST A POSSIBLE INFLUX OF REFUGEES FROM IRAQ
(Hurriyet) Turkey has devised plans to prevent a possible influx of refugees from Iraq in the event of a possible U.S.-led war in Iraq. A total of 18 centers, including 12 in northern Iraq, will be established for the purposes of humanitarian assistance for refugees. In addition, the Sirnak Governor's Office reportedly continues with measures against a possible wave of refugees, as well. Survey teams have begun to hammer stakes to put up tents near the province's Habur border gate.

3. ANTI-WAR PROTESTS CONTINUE
(Evrensel) The Malatya chapter of the Labor Party (EMEP) organized a January 27 concert entitled "Let's Praise Peace." Over 1,000 war opponents, mostly youths, attended the concert, during which anti-U.S. imperialism and pro-socialism slogans were chanted. Bolge reported continued criticism on the part of NGO's against a possible U.S.-led war in Iraq. Yakup Sevkî Ozturk, President of the Adana Young Businessmen's Association (AGIAD), emphasized "the need to preserve economic and ecologic balances."

4. TRIAL OF ASSASSINS OF OKKAN CONTINUES IN DIYARBAKIR
(Evrensel) The trial of four suspected assassins of former Diyarbakir Security Director Gaffar Okkan continued in the Diyarbakir State Security Court. The defendants appeared for the trial and denied the charges. The defendants' attorneys requested that their clients and two eyewitnesses who had testified against their clients be brought face to face. The court adjourned the trial for missing documents in the case file.

5. IDIL (SIRNAK) SURROUNDED, 30 PEOPLE ARRESTED (Radikal/Cumhuriyet/Milli Gazete) Following a half-hour clash between security forces and PKK/KADEK members who had opened fire on military and police housing in Idil (Sirnak), security forces took large-scale security measures, blocking the district with armored vehicles. Security forces raided several homes and arrested 30 (32 according to Cumhuriyet) people, including HADEP officials. Mahmut Akman, ANAP Mayor of the Sirtkoy district, as well as his cousin Sahin Akman, were also arrested. The Akmans are also village guards. Sirnak Governor Huseyin Baskaya declared that a group of two-three (20 according to Cumhuriyet and Sabah) people had carried out the attack. Cumhuriyet cites local sources as saying that seven soldiers were wounded during the attack.

6. SANLIURFA GOVERNOR A TARGET NOW (Cumhuriyet) Over the past three years, there have efforts to remove Sanliurfa Governor Dilek from office for his efforts in fighting against gangs in the province, which has made him the target of gangs, clans, sects, and even some politicians. Former Interior Minister Saadettin Tantani had been appointed Dilek, Tantani's then secretary general, Sanliurfa Governor. Dilek first became a target after the Motherland Party (ANAP) Provincial Chairman's son was arrested within the framework of an operation launched by the Turkish Electricity

Distribution Corporation (TEDAS) to prevent illegal use of electricity in that province. Dilek also drew reactions from Sanliurfa's Bucak Clan for repossessing State land, and from Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) members for preventing them from collecting entrance fees to the State Hospital. This time, it is an operation license his office refused to issue for an illegal gas station. The newspaper says during his tenure, Dilek also

- Suspended the distribution of weapon licenses;
- Cracked down on a gang involved in bidding tenders; and
- Investigated irregularities in Irrigation Cooperatives.

Inspectors had been appointed to investigate Dilek's actions, but they had found him to be in the right.

17. BODY OF ANOTHER CRASH VICTIM MISTAKEN FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S
(Milliyet) The body of Ahmet Tas, who had died during the plane crash in Diyarbakir earlier this month, was confused with that of another victim, Veysel Uyanik. Uyanik's family had received the body and buried it in Batman. Officials believe Uyanik's body is in the Diyarbakir State Hospital's morgue, where at present there are a total of eight bodies. Of these eight bodies, two more have been identified, while officials are awaiting the results of DNA tests being carried in Istanbul on samples taken from the remaining bodies.

18. DEPUTY MAYOR: MUNICIPALITY IS BEING MADE A TARGET
(Evrensel) Meyet Tekin, Deputy Mayor of Diyarbakir's Yenisehir district, criticized an article entitled "Come To Your Senses, Mayor." Tekin claimed Mayor Remzi Azizoglu had been targeted for his municipal council's decision to demolish the district's "illegally-constructed" Martyrs Monument. Tekin said the municipality was only implementing laws. Under the Zoning Law, the allocation of a plot of land for such purposes falls within the scope of the Yenisehir Municipality's responsibilities. "But the Governor's Office did not get permission (from our municipality) and thereby illegally constructed this monument," he argued.

19. EVRENSEL: NATIONAL EDUCATION MINISTRY IGNORES JUDICIARY
(Evrensel) The members of the Music Band of the State Employees' Union Confederation (KESK) in Diyarbakir had been indicted for "assisting and abetting a terror organization (i.e. PKK)" for giving a concert during the Egitim-Sen teachers union's General Congress in Diyarbakir. The National Education Ministry's Disciplinary Council had removed the teachers from office. They were later acquitted, but have not been reinstated, even though they have petitioned the Diyarbakir Administrative Court.

110. HAND GRENADE FOUND AT ADANA SCHOOL
(Turkiye) Students found a hand grenade in a bag in the garden of a primary school that provides education for deaf and mute students. A bomb squad arrived and took the grenade to the Security Directorate. The grenade had been manufactured in Turkey.

111. FORMER VILLAGE GUARD KILLED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT
(Hurriyet) Kulp (Diyarbakir) resident Engin Akdeniz killed 43-year-old former village guard Murat Dinar for having raped his 13-year-old sister Necla Akdeniz. Upon a decision by the Akdeniz family, Necla's two cousins had killed her after giving birth to a stillborn baby. The cousins had been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment each. Engin, Necla's elder brother, had later been tasked with killing Dinar.

112. BOMB HOAX IN DIYARBAKIR
(Evrensel) Someone called Diyarbakir's Sur Municipality and said that a bomb had been placed in the Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality's new office building under construction in the Dagkapi district. The municipality informed the police; a bomb squad arrived and examined the area, but found nothing suspicious.

113. NUMBER OF ADANA STREET CHILDREN DOWN 65% IN

2002

(Bolge) As a result of successful projects carried out by the Adana Security Directorate's Juvenile Department, the number of children working in the streets and involved in crimes has substantially dropped. The number of children working in the streets decreased 65%, falling from 1,071 children in 2001 to 479 in 2002. The number of children contributing to family budgets by collecting waste paper fell from 250 to 182, and glue inhalers from 43 to 39. Last year, legal action was taken against 815 children, with lawsuits opened against 87 families. Also, 16 children were brought under official protection, while 21 others were placed in Apprenticeship Training Centers.

14. DEFENDANTS IN "FRAUDULENT VOTER DECLARATIONS" CASE ACQUITTED

(Evrensel) The Mersin Court of General Criminal Jurisdiction acquitted 48 of the 53 defendants, including a district headman, of "fraudulent voter registry" in Mersin province. The remaining four defendants did not appear for the trial. The court adjourned the trial and decided to write to these four defendants telling them to show up for the (upcoming) trial.

15. PULUMUR (TUNCELI) EARTHQUAKE

(All papers) According to the Bogazici University (Istanbul) Kandilli Observatory, following the January 27 earthquake of 6.5 magnitude in Pulumur (Tunceli), 269 aftershocks shook the area on January

28. Primary and secondary schools began the two-week break a week earlier than normal in the 8,000-person district. As temperatures fell below minus 20 degrees centigrade, Pulumur residents spent the night in one-story buildings and coal cellars, instead of "summer" tents provided by the Red Crescent Society. Tunceli Governor Mustafa Erkal announced having spoken to Public Works and Housing Minister Zeki Ergezen, who he said would send pre-fab dwellings. Erkal added cold-climate tents were on the way to replace the summer tents. "Seven damage assessment teams have already been dispatched to the region," he continued. Mayor Mesut Coskun said 40 pre-fab dwellings would be placed in a tent city established in the Meydanlar district, and that 200 winter tents had arrived. Pulumur district Governor Ali Ada noted that there were no buildings with strong damage in central Pulumur. He added that many buildings had been damaged moderately and lightly. The district Governor's Office established two soup kitchens and donated TL 150 billion (approx. USD 90,000). The Ministry of Public Works donated another TL 50 billion (approx. USD 30,000). Turkiye quoted Assistant Professor Zulfu Gurocak of Firat University's (Elazig) Faculty of Geology Engineering as denying reports that Elazig's Keban Dam was at risk. According to Gurocak, the North Anatolian Fault Line is far away from the dam.

ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

16. SANKO WILL SELL FABRIC TO LEVI'S

(Radikal/Turkiye) Abdulkadir Konukoglu, President of the Gaziantep-based Sanko Holding Company, announced having signed an agreement to sell fabric to Levi's, a major producer of jeans. "We will export USD 50 million per year of fabric to Levi's," he said.

17. COMMERCIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY FOR ADANA BUSINESSMEN

(Bolge) The Adana Chamber of Commerce (ACOC) signed a protocol agreement with Garanti Bank to provide ACOC members with commercial credits for new investments or renewal of current ones. ACOC President Saban Bas said the purpose was to assist small- and medium-scale industries (KOBİ), the locomotive of the national economy, and reenergize the provincial economy.

18. CUKOBIRLIK MANAGING DIRECTOR REPLACED

(Bolge) AK Party has apparently expedited political appointments in Adana after it came to power. Yakup Sahin, Managing Director of Adana's Agricultural Complex (Cukobirlik), which was in the hands of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) during the former Ecevit government, was removed from office. Associate Professor Azim Ozturk of Cukurova University (Adana) has been appointed the new

Managing Director.
HOLTZ